

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 7 and 9-11; amend Claims 1-6 and 8; and add new Claim 12 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger ~~tube obtaining tubes~~ ~~[[of]]~~ each having a predetermined length ~~by a step of forming cutting grooves in advance in a strip material at predetermined intervals, a step of rolling the strip material into a tubular shape to form a continuous tube, and a step of separating the continuous tubes at the cutting grooves by applying external force to parts of the continuous tube, wherein, when forming the cutting grooves in advance in the strip material, thin parts and thick parts are formed in the cutting grooves~~ length, the method comprising:

providing a strip material having a specified width;

forming a plurality of cutting grooves in the strip material, each cutting groove extending entirely across the specified width and being spaced by the predetermined length, each cutting groove including at least two thin parts separated by a thick part;

rolling the strip material into a tubular shape to form a continuous tube;

separating the continuous tube at each cutting groove by applying external force to parts of the continuous tube; wherein

applying the external force to parts of said continuous tube comprises passing said continuous tube between at least four rollers arranged into two groups so

as to have one group of rollers offset in a movement direction of the strip material from one other group of rollers, and set to a distance between the two groups of rollers slightly smaller than a short diameter of said continuous tube so as to make said continuous tube undulate between said two groups of rollers.

2. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger ~~[[tube]]~~ tubes as set forth in claim 1, ~~further comprising, when forming said cutting grooves in advance in said strip material, forming~~ wherein said thick parts are formed at parts of said cutting grooves where stress concentrates in said rolling step of ~~forming said continuous tube from said strip material.~~

3. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger ~~[[tube]]~~ tubes as set forth in claim 2, further comprising forming ~~[[said]]~~ additional thick parts at parts of said cutting grooves formed at the two side edge parts of said strip material.

4. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger ~~[[tube]]~~ tubes as set forth in claim 2, ~~further comprising forming~~ wherein said thick parts are formed at parts of said cutting grooves formed at parts of said strip material which will be bent to form ~~[[the]]~~ two side edges of the tube.

5. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger ~~[[tube]]~~ tubes as set forth in claim 1, ~~further comprising, when forming said~~

~~cutting grooves in advance in said strip material, forming wherein said thick parts are~~
~~formed~~ at parts of said cutting grooves hard to deform when external force is applied in
said step of separating said continuous tube.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat
exchanger ~~[[tube]] tubes~~ as set forth in claim 1, ~~further comprising forming wherein~~ said
thin parts are formed at parts of said cutting grooves formed at parts of said strip
material ending up becoming belly surfaces of the tubes.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat
exchanger ~~tube obtaining tubes of~~ tubes each having a predetermined length,
~~by a step of forming cutting grooves in advance in a strip material at predetermined~~
~~intervals, a step of rolling the strip material into a tubular shape to form a continuous~~
~~tube, and a step of separating the continuous tubes at the cutting grooves by applying~~
~~external force to parts of the continuous tube, wherein, when forming the cutting~~
~~grooves in advance in the strip material, partial differences are provided at the thickness~~
~~of the strip material remaining at the cutting grooves~~ the method comprising:

providing a strip material having a specified width;

forming a plurality of cutting grooves in the strip material, each cutting
groove extending entirely across the specified width and being spaced by the
predetermined length, each cutting groove including differences in the thickness of the

strip material are provided at the cutting groove at different positions along the specified width;

rolling the strip material into a tubular shape to form a continuous tube;

separating the continuous tube at each cutting groove by applying external force to parts of the continuous tube.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (new) A method of manufacturing a plurality of heat exchanger tubes each having a predetermined length, the method comprising:

providing a strip material having a specified width;

forming a plurality of cutting grooves in the strip material, each cutting groove extending entirely across the specified width and being spaced by the predetermined length, each cutting groove including at least two thin parts separated by a thick part;

rolling the strip material into a tubular shape to form a continuous tube;

separating the continuous tube at each cutting groove by applying external force to parts of the continuous tube.